

WATER QUALITY MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

February 26, 2004

TO: Internal File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Steve Fluke, Reclamation Hydrogeologist

RE: 2003, Second Quarter Water Monitoring, West Ridge Resources, Inc.,
West Ridge Mine, C/007/0041-WQ03-2, Task ID #1845

1. Was data submitted for all of the MRP required sites? YES [X] NO []

2. On what date does the MRP require a five-year resampling of baseline water data.

Resampling due date.

Five-year baseline resampling to occur at the time of the mid-term review. The next baseline resampling will be conducted by October 1, 2006.

3. Were all required parameters reported for each site? YES [X] NO []

4. Were irregularities found in the data? YES [X] NO []

Spring monitoring sites SP-8, SP-15, and WR-2 had elevated concentrations of TDS, dissolved magnesium, and sulfate, respectively. All these springs reported low flows due to the drought, which could explain these elevated concentrations.

Stream monitoring sites ST-5 and ST-6, located within C Canyon and downstream of the mine site, collect mine-discharge water mixed with storm water runoff when their automatic sampling devices are triggered by increased flow due to a storm event. The samples sit in the automatic samplers for an unknown period of time before being collected and sent to the laboratory for analysis. Although the validity of the samples is highly questionable, elevated concentrations conductivity, TDS, dissolved potassium and sodium, and sulfate were reported for both monitoring sites.

5. Were DMR forms submitted for all required sites?

1st month, YES [X] NO []
2nd month, YES [X] NO []
3rd month, YES [X] NO []

DMR data is submitted to the DOGM database. No flow was reported for UPDES site 001 (discharge from the sediment pond).

6. Were all required DMR parameters reported? YES [X] NO []

7. Were irregularities found in the DMR data? YES [X] NO []

TDS concentrations for UPDES site 002 exceed the maximum discharge limitation of 2000 lbs/day for April and June.

8. Based on your review, what further actions, if any, do you recommend?

Discuss with the permittee and mine hydrologist if the automatic sampling method for some of the stream sites can be improved upon. Implement a plan to have the automatic sampler collection and holding times reported to DOGM to aid in the evaluation of the analytical results. Although elevated concentrations of some parameters were reported for ST-5 and ST-6, the concentrations were consistent with what would be expected from the mine discharge mixed with ephemeral storm-water runoff.

The permittee has reportedly informed the DWQ of the TDS exceedence for UPDES site 002. According to the permittee, the DWQ will monitor the TDS concentration from this outfall and possibly amend the UPDES permit if necessary. DOGM will continue to monitor the TDS concentrations as well.